

TOPIC Military Information from Rathenow

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EVALUATION

PLACE OBTAINED

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DATE OF CONTENT 6 October to 22 November 1952

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DATE OBTAINED

DATE PREPARED 11 December 1952

REFERENCES

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PAGES 4

ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)

REMARKS

DO NOT CIRCULATE

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1. From 9 to 22 November 1952, the Infanterie Kaserne at the Nordbahnhof railroad station in Rathenow was occupied by troops wearing red-bordered black epaulets, mostly with artillery insignia. All windows of the installation were lighted at dusk. Numerous motor vehicles were seen in the barracks yard as they could not be sheltered. On 18 October, a signboard [] was at the gate. A soldier stated that soldiers were required to have special passes to leave the installation after six men went A.O.L. Soldiers departed for leave from the installation on 5 November. Forty recruits wearing red-bordered black epaulets entered the installation at the same time. The troops were engaged in fatigue duty or maintenance work on the other days.

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2. From 9 to 22 November, the Pionier Kaserne on Rudolf Breitscheid Strasse was occupied beyond capacity by troops wearing red-bordered black epaulets with artillery insignia. The personnel of the headquarters located there included 50 uniformed women who wore red-bordered black epaulets with artillery insignia. Numerous soldiers maintained 10 to 15 122-mm field howitzers and did fatigue duty. An annex, about 30 meters long, was next to one of the gunsheds. The construction of another gunshed started. Trucks [] each occupied by 20 soldiers wearing red-bordered black epaulets with artillery insignia, entered the installation on 5 November. [] the soldiers on these trucks wore good uniforms, had baggage with them and were probably trained soldiers returning from leave. [] numerous motor vehicles were parked in the barracks yard at night.

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4. From 9 to 22 November, the Kraftfahrer Kaserne on Senliner Strasse was occupied to capacity by soldiers wearing red-bordered black epaulets with artillery insignia. The German stoker who had been dismissed from this barracks installation in late October was advised that the pay he had coming to him from the previous troop unit would be remitted to the paymaster of the rocket launcher unit now stationed at the installation and would then be paid to him. He was further advised that if he not get his money he would have to travel to Altengrabow to receive the pay there. On 3 November, 30 trained soldiers wearing red-bordered black epaulets and carrying baggage marched out of the installation.

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5. In mid-October, [REDACTED] Tech Rathenow placed orders with workshops for 3 units at the Infanterie Kaserne, 5 units at the Pionier Kaserne and 2 units including the hospital at the Kraftfahrer Kaserne.

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[REDACTED] this arrangement was a continuous requirement and began when the present units moved to Rathenow. At 11 a.m. on 6 November, 1,080 officers, DM and uniformed women wearing red-bordered black epaulets with artillery insignia, signal or motor transport insignia marched to the Soviet memorial to place a wreath. A military band consisting of 12 soldiers preceded the troops after the ceremony, the troops marched across the town to the Infanterie Kaserne with only 120 to 150 troops proceeding toward the Pionier Kaserne or Kraftfahrer Kaserne.

6. From 9 to 22 November, the Ziethen Kaserne on Bahnhof Strasse was occupied by troops wearing red-bordered black epaulets with artillery insignia.

7. On 6 November, the former repair shop at the intersection of Friedrich Ebert Ring and Friedrich Lange Strasse was cleaned by VPs. On 22 November, the shop quartered at least 100 VPs who wore either old uniforms or olive drab uniforms with blue collar patches.

8. A resident stated that Camp Prennitz, south of Rathenow, was occupied by VPs after the departure to Rathenow of the rear detail of the rocket launcher unit. On 22 November, the camp was occupied to capacity by VPs.

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9. In early November, the residents in Rathenow believed that the Arado plant on the road to Premnitz would be vacated and be occupied by VPs. 3

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11. On 5 November, the Kraftfahrer Kaserne fed about 600 soldiers, including about 250 to 300 soldiers who had arrived from the Premnitz cantonment in late October. No training activity was noticed. On 25 October, 7 x 152-mm model 43 field howitzers were seen in the Kraftfahrer Kaserne.
12. On 5 November, about 300 soldiers were fed in the Pioneer Kaserne. Eight to ten 122-mm mortars were seen in a shed. Three other sheds were razed and the construction material was hauled away to the former German army ration supply depot.
13. On 5 November, the Infanterie Kaserne at the Nordbahnhof railroad station fed about 200 soldiers.
14. In late October, the LVD office previously located on Fontane Strasse moved to the former Rech office on Schuetzen Strasse.

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1. [] Comment. The information indicates no changes in the location of units in Rathenow over previous reports. []. The referenced report had already indicated the transfer from the Kraftfahrer Kaserne of elements of the 10th How Arty Brig (US). The information confirms that these elements, as had been surmised are stationed in Altengrabow. The reference report also indicated that the installation was now occupied by the 25th RL Brig from Premnitz. It can, however, not yet be determined whether only elements of the afore mentioned brigade went to Altengrabow to vacate quarters for the 25th RL Brig. The units mentioned in paragraph 4 of the present report tend to indicate that they were sub-units of the units believed stationed in the individual barracks installations. The mess strength given in paragraphs 9 to 11 would then be considerably underestimated.

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[REDACTED]

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3. [REDACTED] Comment. This report is the first to indicate that the two installations in Rathenow would be occupied by VPs. As a VF train went from Eggesin to Premnitz on 26 October 1952, there was reason to believe that Premnitz was occupied by VPs. [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

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